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Panther Sports News

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, Charleston, IL 61920

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Five Metro-East football players earned letters for one of Eastern Illinois University's greatest football teams ever.

Running backs Darryon White (East St. Louis-Senior) and Tyrone Davis (East St. Louis-Lincoln), wide receivers Reggie Drew (Mascoutah-Triton JC) and Roger Holoman (Alton) and linebacker David Fergusson (Alton) played prominent roles in the Panthers success.

EIU reached the quarterfinals of the NCAA I-AA tournament before being eliminated by Tennessee State 20-19 last Saturday. The Panthers had advanced after a 16-13 first round win over Jackson State.

It was the first loss of the year for Eastern which finished with an 11-1-1 record and No. 5 ranking in the final NCAA I-AA poll.

White, a starter from midway through the season, rushed for 238 yards, caught 19 passes for 217 yards and returned two kickoffs for 34 yards.

Holoman, who started slowly and eventually was shifted from split end to flanker, caught 21 passes for 376 yards during the regular season and nine more for 82 yards in the two playoff games.

Davis, used primarily as a blocking back, gained 177 yards rushing and caught four passes for 24 yards. Drew, originally a reserve defensive back, moved to wide receiver where he played sparingly catching three passes for 48 yards.

Fergusson did not start at linebacker but was the first one off the bench. He ended up with 55 tackles including 22 solos, four quarterback sacks, two tackles for loss and forced one fumble.

This was the third time in the past five years the Panthers have competed in a post-season tournament. During this stretch EIU, under the direction of Head Coach Darrell Mudra, has a 47-15-1 record, best among Illinois' seven universities that are Division I or I-AA.